HIS MAIESTIES *DECLARATION*, IN ANSVVER TO A *DECLARATION*

Of the LORDS and COMMONS assembled in PARLIAMENT,

For the raising of all Power, and Force, as well Trained Bands as others in severall Counties of this Kingdom, to lead against all Traitors and Their ADHERENTS, *&c.*

Printed at *Oxford* by His MAIESTIES COMMAND.

By LEONARD LICHFIELD, Printer to the *Vniversity*.

1642.

+

His Majesties Declaration, in Answer to a *Declaration of the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament, &c.*

AS much experience as We have had of the inveterate rancour, and high Insolence of the Malignant Party against Us, We never yet saw any expression come from them, so evidently declaring it, as the Declaration, entituled, *A Declaration of the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament, for the raising of all power and force, as well Trained-bands as others in severall Counties of this Kingdome, to leade against all Trayters, and their Adherents, &c.* In which, that faction hath, as it were distilled, and contracted all their Falshood, Insolence, and Malice. There being in it not one Period, which is not either slanderous, or Treasonable. And nothing can more grieve Us, then that by their infinite Arts, and Subtilty (employed by their perpe-

tuall and indefatigable Induſtry) and by that Rabble of *Browniſts*, and other *Schiſmatickes*, declaredly ready to appeare at their Call, they ſhould have been able ſo to draw away ſome, and drive away others of Our good Subjects from Our Parliament, as to prevaile with the Major part remaining of both Houſes (how much ſoever that Major part be the ſmaller in compariſon of the whole) to ſuffer that name (whoſe Reverence by all meanes We deſire to preſerve) to be ſo foyl'd, as to be prefixed to a paper of this unſufferable nature; that tends not only to the Deſtruction of Our Perſon, but to the Diſſolution of this Government, and of all Society; If at leaſt this Declaration (which We rather ſee cauſe to hope it hath not) have ſo much as been ſeene in the Houſes, and be not the ſingle worke of the ſame Omnipotent Committee, to which is devolved the whole power of the Parliament, and which, as We underſtand, is truſted (without acquainting the Houſes) to break up any mans houſe, and take away the Armes, and money intended to defend and feed him (if they ſhall ſee cauſe to ſuſpect, that he meant to aſſiſt his Soveraigne with them) and may well be as fully and implicitly truſted to Declare, as to Act, whatſoever they pleaſe. And

though

though We doubt not, but to their utmoſt they will continue that Injurie to Us, and that violation of the Subjects Liberty, and of publike Right, to vex and impriſon thoſe, who ſhall publiſh any of Our Anſwers to their Declarations, (and indeed whil'ſt they affirme againſt all truth, and command againſt all Law, it concernes them to take care, that nothing be heard but what they ſay) yet Our comfort is, that Our Intentions, and the Duty of Our Subjects, are ſo well, and ſo generally known to Our People, that we cannot feare (from whomſoever it come, and though no Anſwer came out with it) that either, what is there ſaid, ſhould be believed, or what is there commanded, ſhould be obeyed. Who knows not that Our Commiſsions for horſe and foot were not granted out, till not onely Our Prerogative, but Our Propriety, Our Goods, Armes, Townes, *Militia*, and negative voice were taken from Us, and all the Kingdome commanded to be in Arms, and invited to bring in horſe, plate, and money to frame an Army againſt Our command, and Proclamation, and till horſe were rais'd and muſtered accordingly, and then, with no Intention (nor hath any Action in any of our Miniſters given the

leaſt ſuſpicion of ſuch an Intention) by them to compell Our ſubjects to ſubmit to Our Commiſſions of Array, or make uſe of them againſt the Parliament, but to regain *Hull*, held out in Rebellion againſt Us; And to ſuppreſſe all ſuch, as without Our Authority, and againſt Our Commands ſhould rayſe forces in this Our Kingdome, and leavy war againſt Us, under pretence of any order or ordinance of one or both Houſes: & ſuch trayterous Aſſemblies and Marches have been the only lawfull and neceſſary Occaſions of Our good ſubjects, which have not been ſo much as interrupted by any Troopes of Ours; And what is affirmed of the ſpoiling and killing them, as they were ſo travelling under Our Protection, and according to law, is a moſt malitious Affirmation, as well without truth, as without inſtance, invented at once to make Our Troopes terrible, and Us odious to Our People. What care have we taken that by this meanes the power of the ſword ſhould not come into the hands of Papiſts, who have by Our Proclamation ſtrictly charged that no Papiſt ſhould preſume to liſt himſelfe, either as Officer, or Souldier in this Our Army, having directed how he ſhould be diſcovered, if he did preſume, and ſuffer, if he were diſcovered? What care have

We

We taken to avoid Combuſtion, and Civill warre, offering to lay down Our Armes, when they ſhall have laid down theirs, in whom it was Treaſon to take them up, and reſtored Us thoſe things, which could not without Treaſon, as well as injuſtice be forced away, and kept from Us, Our Arms, Ships, Town, &c. And when we might meet both Our Houſes in a ſafe and ſecure place to debate freely of all the differences in a Parliamentary way. And by whoſe Influences theſe Propoſitions were received, & whether the Propoſer, or rejecters were moſt carefull to avoid this ruine and Deſolation of the Kingdome, we leave all the world to judge, and whether they, who divert the men and money, collected for the reliefe of diſtreſſed *Ireland*, to raiſe forces againſt their Prince, (who asks them nothing, but what is legall, nor will deny them any thing that is) doe not joyne with the Popiſh and Jeſuiticall faction in the bloudy Maſſacre of many Thouſand Proteſtants in that miſerable Kingdome. We propoſe likewiſe to every mans judgement, whether the declaring thoſe to be Traytors, who execute Our Commiſſion of *Array* (iſſued in ſo many Kings Raignes, agreed upon by Parliament, and there yeelded to by the King, to be ſetled, as now it is,

as

as a matter of great grace. And since that time which was in the 5° *Hen.* 4. In no Parliament complained of) whilst our good Subjects are vexed and imprisoned, not onely for resisting, but for humbly petitioning so, as may seeme but to insinuate something against their most illegall Commands concerning the *Militia*. (To which power of commanding no Title can be made by any Statute, or any Precedent, nor can we ever find by search, nor obtaine to be told, what those fundamentall Lawes are, by which it is pretended. So deepe those foundations are laid, beyond all meanes of discovery.) And the Declaring that those, who raise men, by vertue of Our Command, & Commission (the only legall way) traiterously and rebelliously leavy war against the King, and ordaining it to be lawfull for all Our Subjects by force of Arms to resist them, and their Accomplices, and the raising of forces by Authority of Parliament (that is, by the remaining part of both Houles) never in the most outragious times before attempted, & commanding severall Persons, whom they call Lievtenants to lead, and giving them power to transport from one County to another, the forces of severall of Our Counties against them; and to kill and slay all such, as by

force

force ſhall oppoſe them, Our Self not excepted, commanding all Our Officers and Subjects to be aſsiſting to them, and undertaking to ſecure them for ſo doing, by the power and Authority of Parliament (which is firſt to allow, and next to command, & then to pardon Treaſon) be not to have already ſubverted, as much as in them lyes, the Liberty of the Subject, the law of the Land, and altered the antient goverment of the Kingdome, leaving Our Subjects without all Rule to walke by, when the moſt cleere Lawes cannot direct and ſecure them, and they ſee all thoſe antient bounds paſſed over, which were ever as much known to be the Duty of both Houſes to obſerve, as it was Evident, that there were, and that it was neceſſary that there ſhould be Two Houſes of Parliament; and at once behold the law (which is to defend and protect the Subject) and Us, (who are to protect and defend the Law) need Defence, and Protection; We doubt not therefore, but all Our good Subjects will come in to Our Aſsiſtance, and that this wicked charge of intending to introduce Popery, Idolatry, and Arbitrary Goverment, laid by Implication upon us (becauſe we defend Our Selves, and would recover Our own) will be ſo farre from being a Motive againſt Us, that this in-

 tolerable

tolerable Indignity, and damnable ſcandall, (ſo daily and viſibly confuted by all Our Profeſsions and Actions) will encreaſe Our good Subjects zeal towards Us, and their Indignation againſt the Contrivers; And they will eſteeme themſelves obliged by the Religion of Almighty God, to oppoſe this war, ſo impiouſly, ſo treatonably, and ſo groundleſly made upon Us their King, and his Annointed.

We therefore require all Our Commiſſioners of Array, Sheriffes, and all Our other Officers and Miniſters to raiſe all the power and forces of their ſeverall Counties to aſsiſt the Marqueſſe of *Hertford*, the Earle of *Northampton*, the Lord *Willoughby of Eresby*, the Lord *Dunſmore*, the Lord *Pawlett*, the Lord *Seymour*, *Henry Haſtings* Eſquire, Sir *John Stowell*, Sir *Ralph Hopton*, *John Digby* Eſquire, and all other in the legall and neceſſary Execution of Our Commiſsions of Array, and in the raiſing and conducting of ſuch Horſe and Foot, as ſhall be rais'd by Our Commiſsion: and by force of Armes to oppoſe the Earle of *Eſſex*, the Lord *Say*, and all other, that ſhall raiſe, or conduct any Forces raiſed by pretence of Authority of both Houſes, and the Perſons of all ſuch Traitors, and their Adherents, and Accomplices to Arreſt and Impriſon,

Impriſon, to the end they may be brought to a fayre and legall tryall, by their Peers, and according to the Law. And this we require from them, as they tender the Defence of Our Perſon, the true Religion, the Law of the Land, the Liberty, and Property of the Subject, and the true and juſt Priviledges of Parliament. And for ſo doing, they ſhall be defended and ſecured by Us, and by the Law; with whom, and with which, we doubt not but Our Subjects will ſooner chooſe to live and dye, then with the Earle of *Eſſex* and his Adherents.

FINIS.